



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers®

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Mississippi River Commission  
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## Arnold Sworn In as MRC President

VICKSBURG, Miss., December 20, 2001 -- Brig. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold, Jr., 34<sup>th</sup> President of the Mississippi River Commission, officially took the oath of office when he was sworn in Friday, December 7, 2001, by the Honorable Mike Parker, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Gen. Arnold pledged his service to the United States during a ceremony at the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association's annual meeting in New Orleans, La.

Commission appointments are nominated by the President and subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Arnold's nomination was confirmed by the Senate and approved by President Bush October 1, 2001.

The Mississippi River Commission was created by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1879. It consists of three officers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- one designated as president -- a representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and three civilians, two of whom are civil engineers.

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The commission itself is an advisory body. Its general duties include recommending policy and work programs, studying and reporting on modifications or changes to the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, commenting on matters authorized by law, making inspection trips and holding public hearings that facilitate reciprocal exchanges of viewpoints and ideas between the public and the Corps.

Brig. Gen. Arnold has been serving as commander and division engineer of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, headquartered in Vicksburg, Miss., since September 2000. As MVD Commander, General Arnold is responsible for the Corps' water resources program in the Mississippi River Valley. The boundary of the Mississippi Valley Division extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, includes portions of 12 states and encompasses 370,000 square miles. As MRC president he is also responsible for the Mississippi River and Tributaries project -- the vast, comprehensive flood control and navigation plan for the alluvial valley from Cape Girardeau, Mo., to the Gulf of Mexico.

The programs and activities overseen by the Mississippi Valley Division and Mississippi River Commission are conducted by district offices located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.

(Note: For more information on Brig. Gen. Arnold, a biography is attached.)



The Honorable Mike Parker, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, reads the oath of office to Brig. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold, Jr., as Arnold's wife, Margaret, looks on.





**U.S. Army Corps  
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Mississippi Valley  
Division  
Mississippi River  
Commission



**Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.**

*Commander, Mississippi Valley Division  
President, Mississippi River Commission*

Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr., assumed command of the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Sept. 12, 2000. He also serves as President of the Mississippi River Commission (MRC). The President of the United States made the appointment October 1, 2001. Arnold came to MVD from Dallas, Texas, where he was the Commander and Division Engineer of the Southwestern Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As MVD Commander, Arnold plays a vital role in managing the Corps water resources program in the Mississippi River Valley. The boundary of the Mississippi Valley Division extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, includes portions of 12 states, and encompasses 370,000 square miles. The programs and activities overseen by the MVD and MRC are conducted by district offices located in St. Paul, Minn., Rock Island, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., Memphis, Tenn., Vicksburg, Miss., and New Orleans, La.

Arnold was born in Bay City, Texas, where he graduated high school in May 1967. In May 1972, he graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in geology and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He returned to the University of Texas in 1976 to earn a master's degree in civil engineering.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer Officers Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Army War College and the School of Advanced Military Studies, where he received a master's of military arts and science degree.

Arnold's previous assignments include battalion operations officer, supply officer and commander, as well as division plans and executive officer. He served at locations within the United States to include Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Gordon, Ga. He was assigned as deputy commander of the U.S. Army Engineer Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division Engineer Brigade at Bad Kreuznach, Germany. He also completed a tour in Athens, Greece, where he oversaw Corps operations in Greece and Turkey.

Arnold's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, and the German Cross of Honor in Silver.